

1. "Beach and Scott" was the second store of T.A. Beach. When he first came to Fairbury from the farm south of town in 1862 he opened a General Mercantile Store. Five years later it was destroyed by fire, and then he opened the hardware store with Scott.
2. The Livingston House stood between the railroad and DeFries's Coal Yard.
3. This was "Uncle Doc". Newt Fulton's own father was a school teacher.
4. The Arcade Block was the south side of Livingston Square and was built by Marsh, who also built the hotel. The Arcade Block had beautiful fan lights.
5. At the Livingston fire they carried down the feather beds and threw the wash bowls out the windows.
6. Dr. Raybourn was our family dentist, and he was a great friend of mine when I was girl. Dr. Roth bought out his business.
7. Judge Woodford McDowell moved to Fairbury from Avoca. He was one of the original settlers, and one of Fairbury's most prominent men. (See one of the Livingston County Histories for his biography.)
8. Dr. Fraley was T.A. Beach's physician. Like all the professional men of the time, he wore a high silk hat and a shawl. He was quite thin and tall and had a prominent nose and chine. Later in life when he lost his teeth, the two nearly met.
9. Zimmerman's Drug Store. Phil Wade worked there as a boy until Zimmerman died. He took over when Zimmerman's health failed. Mrs. Melvin Anderson owns the building now. The place is a double saloon now, and Zimmerman's Drug Store was the one to the east.
10. The firemen did not wear uniform, but had helmets and rubber coats.
11. Dr. Cicero Bartlett was the brother of Mrs. T.A. Beach. (See the Livingston County History.) Mrs. Abe Filley boarded at Dr. Cicero Bartlett's for two years while she went to school and she always thought so much of him. He was very fond of salt rising bread, and whenever she baked any she always sent Olive over with a loaf for him. She sat on Ruth Taylor's Big Chair while she waited.
12. Mrs. L.B. Dominy was known to me as "Aunt Phoebe". She married T.A. Beach's nephew, Lorenzo or "Ren" Dominy. She had been a hired girl in the family, but was dearly loved by all of them.
13. Rufus C. Huntoon was the father-in-law of Kate Huntoon, and the grandfather of Hugh Huntoon.
14. Abe Filley was the father of Olive Filley James.
15. Now known as the "horse hole" on Mamie Ficklin's farm near the bridge south of town.

16. John Virgin was a prominent politician and horseman, and a great friend of the Filley's. He lived where Cooks Morgue is. Grandmother Virgin lived next, and the elaborate barns were built around a sort of court back of that and next to the alley. The well was in one corner of the court and the office in another.
17. Charlie Perlee was a nephew of Mrs. T.A. Beach, being the son of her sister Sarah.
18. The fire benefits were to pay the regular firemen who received no pay for their services. Everybody helped at fires and received no pay, for they might need help themselves next time.
19. Bartlett, Beach and Dominy, was Dr. Cicero Bartlett, who was T.A. Beach's brother-in-law, and Ren Dominy was the nephew of them both.
20. George Franzen became Mayor of Fairbury, and I always liked him so much when I was a little girl.
21. Joe Scibird was a son of John Scibird the editor of the Independent Blade.
22. Professor Vaughan looked the typical dancing teacher. He was small and dapper, with a small moustache. He always wore evening clothes at classes. He never let anyone but his own pupils dance the Lancers for fear they would make a mistake. Grandmother James belonged to his class but she was not allowed to go to the dances as she was too young.
23. John Scibird was born in fountain County, Indiana, 1830, and in 1856 he went to Bloomington, Illinois, where he was a photographer. He had sandy hair and moustache. In partnership with Waters, he bought the Pantograph; disposed of it the following year, and bought the Leader. In 1869 he became Postmaster at Bloomington for five years, and went to Fairbury in December of 1876.
24. The Burr Oak Farm in Fayette Township, Livingston County, was the largest farm in the world owned and controlled by one person. Its forty thousand acres was under a perfect system of management that was equal to military discipline. In Harper's Illustrated weekly of September, 1871, there were three columns and some dozen engravings about it. The farm was divided into sections with an overseer in charge of each who reported to Mr. Sullivan each night. It was said that the equipment of the place would handsomely stock two or three agricultural stores. There was a magnificent herd of milk cows, three hundred mules, fifty horses, fifty yoke of cattle, and over one thousand hogs. In fact, there were such quantities of things that his men bragged about selling Mr. Sullivan his own mules. Mr. Sullivan introduced Negro slavery into this part of the country and many of the colored people here now are descendants of the ones who wondered away from that farm. The Civil War was what brought on the bankruptcy of Burr Oaks.
25. For Doctor Ostrander's biography, see the early Livingston County Histories and also "Twigs from the Family Tree". The old histories and some of their biographical sketches were a bunch of stuffed shirts. They practically wrote their own articles and then bought the books. With only the biographical material, the reader would be led to think hat the

County was inhabited solely by Nature's Noblemen. Doc was one of the exceptions. He was too busy caring for the sick to worry what they wrote about him.

26. Henry Kingman was a very prosperous hardware merchant, and was a great friend of T.A Beach. His daughters were in Olive James's crowd. They built the house on the corner of Fifth and Chestnut where Jay Claudon now lives.
27. I.P. McDowell was tall and skinny. He wore chine whickers and was bald, but was not as bald as some of his relatives. He was a sanctimonious old coot – the most sanctimonious of any of the McDowells. He lived next door west of T.A. Beach.
28. Hiel J. Ramsey was E.B. Ramsey's grandfather. He was quite a "wolf" as a young man, and all his life he had a lurid reputation with the ladies.
29. The fought the railroads in the Eastern states because they thought the engines would run off the tracks and kiss horses and people. Canal barge owners were particularly "agin it". As the lines got west, thought, the railroads received the support of the people.
30. Marion A. Fugate, son of William Fugate, immigrant. He married "Aunt Belle", and was the grandfather of Muriel, Carol and Ruth Pauline Fugate of Aberdeen, Idaho. He had joined the Nebraska land immigration, going later to Idaho.
31. J.E. Lewis was an older brother of Dr. G.C. Lewis. He was a travel-salesman for a Chicago firm, Sprague Warner and Co. I always knew him as "Uncle Elmer".
32. Ella Beach was the youngest daughter and only surviving child of T. A. Beach.
33. What finally ended the gang wars between the small boys of Fairbury was a circus that pitched its tent in Livingston Square. (The circuses used to come to town over the DeMoss Bridge, and the youngsters used to ride out at crack of dawn to meet them). Every boy in town attended because it had animals with it. During the performance they had an act that was "tough", and the audience didn't like it. Nobody ever knew how the fight started, but of course, the McDowell boys got the credit. All at once that old circus battle cry, "Hey, rube!" went up, and those seasoned circus roustabouts grabbed the thing nearest at hand, and went to war. From then on it was entirely immaterial whether a boy lived on the east side of Fairbury or the West side of Fairbury, and that fight was a lulu. During the fun the old animosities disappeared under the urgency of keeping ones neck from getting broken. Logan and several of his friends crawled under the board sidewalk on Main Street and stayed there a couple of hours until it was over. The Doctors had plenty of patching of hides to do then, and one of the McDowell boys spent the next four days in bed.
34. Franklin Oliver. (See "Twigs from the Family Tree")
35. The Filleys lived where Eilers live on West Maple Street until the father went west. The mother was afraid to stay alone, so they moved into the house where Keith Andersons live. It was a double house, and they lived on the East side until the father came home. They moved to Marjorie Fulton's at 110 West Maple Street when Grandmother was eleven. Virgin's were across the street where the morgue is. Lyda Wade lived where Eilers do. Lilly McDowell was on the corner west.

36. Lorenzo Beach's wife was Sarah Roop, a widow, a much loved and respected member of the Methodist Church.
37. Sam Fendrick and his brother had only one good suit between them, and they took turns going to town on Saturday nights. Their father got drunk every Saturday, and sometimes wouldn't let them go, so they would slide down the water spout. At other times he would give them a nickel or a dime to spend.
38. The charavari was an invaluable custom for saluting newly-weds, the noisemakers being bought off with the treat of some sort. It became such a nuisance that in 1902 a state law was passed forbidding.
39. A "basket meeting" was where the church members took their dinners with them in a basket. They had preaching services in the morning and then again in the afternoon.
40. Nigger Dick joined Virgin and Filley's regiment during the war, having run away from his owners, and he refused to go back after the war was over begging the men to take him with them. He was a good cook for the boys, and they were fond of him so Virgin brought him back with him. Dick's leg had been injured in some way, and he was badly crippled. He was the town bootblack. Virgin let him sleep in his office, and sort of looked after him, and saw that he didn't go hungry.
41. Cicero Bartlett never liked J.E. Lewis as long as he lived, but he gave him a farm, just the same.
42. Fawcner's Harness Shop was in the east end block.
43. A.B. Claudon was the uncle of Chester Claudon. He came to Fairbury from France with a little money which he loaned out at good interest, and he never renewed a mortgage, but always foreclosed. Furthermore he earned a bad name for being a crooked dealer. He married Judge Woodford McDowell's daughter, Mollie.
44. Anna Stackpole was the daughter of William Stackpole and a very good friend of Ella Beach. She never married, and because her father had put nearly everything he owned into the Canal, now known as the Chicago, she lived and died in poverty.
45. The Railroad restaurant was a wooden building just west of the depot.
46. As girls, The Dominys, Kingmans and Ollie Filley attended three Sunday schools every Sunday. They first went to the Baptist and then to the Methodist Church for preaching services. At twelve o'clock they went to the Presbyterian Sunday school, after which they went home for dinner. At 2:30 the Methodist Sunday School convened. (It was The Sunday school) Then they all went to church at night. The boys waited in a line outside to "pick off" their girls as they came out.
47. It was thought that tramps set many of the fires in Fairbury, so an Ordinance was passed, and the citizens formed themselves into a kind of vigilante committee. Any person that couldn't account for himself was promptly run out of town.

48. The Kingman girls and the Virgin girls dressed very elaborately, and they had everything. The rest of the girls in the crowd dressed very simply.
49. The Arcade Block was the south side of Livingston Square where the water tower still stands. The buildings were beautiful. They were of brick and had large fan lights.
50. Beach's stone quarry was on the old home farm.
51. Among the pioneers, the ones who bought their land felt themselves a cut above those who had only received government grants. The Easterners felt very much above the backwoodsmen from Kentucky, etc.
52. Elijah Filley was the brother of Abe Filley of Fairbury. He was another one of those who went to Nebraska to seek their fortunes.
53. Walton's Mill stood where Honneggers Mill is now.
54. Vaughan's Dancing Class and the Knight Templar dances were THE things of the year. The K.T. dances were at the Opera House. They began at nine, because of the late train for the Chenoa crowd, and they danced until twelve when they went to the Rodger's House (Thomas) for a turkey dinner. Then they went back and danced until four. The girls wore the trains on their dresses carried on ribbons to their wrists to show their lace petticoats. They carried their dancing slippers in party bags and changed at the Opera House.
55. The central Hotel was about opposite Marjorie Fulton's on Main Street. After it burned the Archer House was built about where the Ben Franklin Store is now.
56. There were only two kinds of women, the pure and the prostitutes. There was no middle ground. A betrayed girl automatically became a social outcast.
57. Sixty two years ago there was a two dollar pole tax. You either paid it or worked it out. Krings hauled slack for the town roads. A lot of it went around the I.P. McDowell Bridge. They dumped everything there.
58. They also had printed cards for the friends of James McDowell. William Fugate saved his, and I found it in his old family Bible that now belongs to his grandson, Marion. It was black bordered, of course.

Funeral Notice

“The post mortem obsequies honoring the
Remains of James McDowell, will be given at
The Methodist Church, Fairbury, Ill., today,
Saturday, June 12th, at 1 o'clock, P.M.

Friends of the family are invited to be present.

James McDowell died at his residence, in
Fairbury, Thursday, June 10th, 1880 at 8 ½
O'clock, P.M., from the result of several severe
Fractures sustained in an accident on the 5th day Of May, 1880."

59. The walks were made of boards laid on edge a specified distance apart, and other boards nailed across them on top. The crossings were the same. There was a little bump when you went over them as you were riding.
60. Emma Bartlett was the daughter of Dr. Cicero Bartlett. She afterwards married the nephew of Dr. G.C. Lewis, Hiel Taylor.
61. The Tom Smiths had about ten children and they were always into trouble. Tom always said that his children weren't ornery enough for Gilpins (his wife's people) and not good enough for Smiths. The preacher said that the Smith boys were made for trouble. The DeMoss gang was lots worse than the Tom Smiths.
62. Anna Lewis: (See the William Lewis Book)
63. Mrs. Dr. William Beach: (See the Obil Beach Book)
64. David Murdock was T.A. Beach's lawyer. He was six feet two and a fine looking man. He lived in the next block west, in the Walter Nussbaum house, which is unchanged externally.
65. Charlie Keck was a Swiss immigrant, a boy about 16 years old. He immediately entered First Grade of the Fairbury School. Grandmother was just starting in the first herself. He had received a good education in his own country, and so he went through all eight grades that year.
66. The James McDowell building in the McDowell Block was the third one to the west. In the next block west was Jake Thornton's Pop factory and cider mill. McDowell Hall was over the dry good store.
67. (This was the second Methodist Church in Fairbury.) When the first Methodist Church was dedicated, Mr. Stilwell, who liked to cut letters out of cardboard and then gild them, stringing them to form words, had the walls of the church all decorated with mottoes. The next week after the dedication, there was a terrific storm, the roof was blown off and only one wall was left standing. Across it was "Trust in God."
68. Charlie Perlee was engaged to Julia Swazy. She was all ready to be married down to a hundred glasses of jelly when he jilted her by going back to Ohio and marrying a girl there. She died, leaving three or four children, and then he married Julia. Julia's sister was engaged to Dr. Sam James, brother of Percy James I, and jilted him. They made up, and she was all ready to be married, and he jilted her.
69. The night of the Commercial House fire there was a terrific wind.

History of Fairbury Fires

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70. Fairbury has had more disastrous fires than any other town of its size in this part of the country. For years no property owner in the town was able to get any fire insurance. There were five great fires with great loss and very little insurance. (In these days with a National War Debt of billions, a few thousands of dollars does not seem to be very much. But at that time a man worked hard to get a dollar, and a dollar meant one hundred cents, and they were able to buy things for a penny. A pair of boy's pants cost just twenty-five cents.)

The first big fire occurred October 11, 1868, and was caused by a locomotive on the T.P.&W. and a vindictive engineer. Heavy firing of the engine, producing heavy smoke and sparks, combined with excessively dry weather caused the conflagration. Sparks set fire to Parker Dresser's Grain Elevator in the East end and jumped to a row of wooden buildings on the North side of Locust Street. Eighteen stores burned. At that time eighteen stores burned with very little of the contents saved and very little insurance, with a loss of \$75,000. Suits against the T.P.&W. were immediately started and were pending in the courts for six years, but they were never settled.

The second big fire was just four months later, February 22, 1869, and it was a little home job. Someone started a fire in Lesenby's Law Office on the second floor of a frame building on the corner of Fourth and Locust Streets. There were ten wooden buildings on the west and every one of them in the block burned to the ground. This time the loss was \$20,000.

In September of this same year, two fires started simultaneously. The one in the West End was in McDonald's Wagon Shop, and the one in the East End was in Elliott's Jewelry Store. Seven building went up in smoke that night, with a loss of \$12,000.

In December they tried the Elliott's again with a fire in the cellar of George T. Elliott and Co. Four brick business building belonging to N.F. Small and Co., George T. Elliott and Co., Beach and Scott, and Pindar Bros. were burned to the ground with a loss of \$50,000.

The Amsbury and Jones elevator caught it the next time, May 3, 1870, and Jones Hall went with it, as did Burch and Havermale's Drug Store, T F. Keff's Grocery Store, and Joseph T. Jones's Restaurant. This fire cost \$38,000.

This had the east end of town pretty well cleaned out in the business district, so, on January 15, 1871; someone poured kerosene over the piled benches and chairs in McDowell Hall and set fire to them. This time, however, it was discovered and extinguished before much damage was done.

September 9, 1871, the Wilson Grist Mill burned. It was owned by H.M. Gillett, but it was leased by Amsbury and Jones. Their loss was \$12,000, with only \$5,000 insurance.

The Livingston Hotel was the next victim. It was a two story frame building that had been put up in 1866 in the extreme west end of town. It was also used as a depot and waiting room for West Fairbury passengers. It was never rebuilt.

The destruction of the South side school house was a nice little job. This time the interested parties backed a wagon load of burning hay into the place. That was the night of April 16, 1880.

April 6, 1880, the Central House, a three story frame rooming house, in the center of the block between Second and Third Streets, caught fire in the attic and took the rest of the building in the block, twelve in all.

The first of the Walton fires occurred October 14, 1884. It started in the grist mill but leaped across the street to the mercantile stores. The fire engines would not work, and twenty-one other firms were destroyed before the fire finally burned itself out. No wonder Johnny Scibird, at an earlier date had written so bitterly about the state of repair of the engines. Walton's loss that time was \$125,000. The total damage done was about \$200,000.

Their next fire was April 14, 1896, when they were again wiped out with a loss of \$30,000.

Now these were just the spectacular blazes downtown. In addition to them, every few nights somebody's house was afire. No one went to bed without carefully arranging their clothes close at hand so that they could be put on instantly. Even if it wasn't actually ones turn to call the fire department boys, if it was in the neighborhood one got busy on his own roof with buckets of water to douse the sparks. The women of the household did the filling and carrying.

An Eastsider would spend the next day or two weighing the evidence as to who was most likely to have done it, and then he would buy himself a box of matches and some dark night he would slip over to the West end and set fire to the other fellow's place. The Marsh's, who owned most of West Fairbury, and the Amsburys, who owned most of East Fairbury, were the ringleaders in this merry little game. There was no room for neutrals, either. The dividing line was Second Street, and even the small fry were at war. This ran at high pitch during the latter part of the '60's and the early part of the '70's. Articles were published in the local papers copies of which were unfortunately not preserved, accusing each other by name of having set the fires. The indignant defendants promptly started suits for alleged slander, and they tried to get indictments before the Grand Jury. This feud did not die out until, ruined by the lawsuits and fires, the Marshes and Amsbury's either died or moved away.

When the citizens of Fairbury had opportunity to catch their breath and really consider their losses, they called a mass meeting, and in January, 1872, the following resolutions were adopted;

"Resolved that such deeds are a blight upon our city and an infamous stain upon the characters of the perpetrators, instead of upon those who would so defame; that we regard with horror and astonishment the actions of men, prostituting their official position to carry out personal spite against their fellow citizens at public expense; that we are utterly opposed to such person, and believe such attempt to be the result of vindictive personal feeling, generated by an old feud on the part of their enemies in the hope to shield themselves from damages in certain suits now pending against them in the courts."

There was one comic case in all this misfortune. Any Claudon, who had a bad reputation for crooked dealing, was arrested and brought to trial for burning down the house where he was rooming. The fire had been started by kerosene in the basement, and things looked bad for Andy. He was engaged to Judge McDowell's daughter, and the old gentleman prepared to defend him. Boiled down, his speech to the jury hinged the whole defense on the question of whether those spots of kerosene went UP the stairs, or whether they went DOWN the stairs, and with his conclusion, the worthies were so befuddled with the Judge's verbosity that they let Andy go.